

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00678 221532Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----078549 221533Z /75

P 221459Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8418

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0678

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: XG
S
TAGS: MARR, IC
SUBJECT: AIR TERMINAL DECISION

REF: A. STATE 112290; B. REYKJAVIK 0597

IN DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE MOFA DEPUTY PERMANENT UNDER SECRE-
TARY HORDUR HELGASON REITERATED GOI APPRECIATION OF US WILLING-
NESS TO ASSIST IN CONSTRUCTION OF TERMINAL. HELGASON ADDED
THAT "ONLY FIVE" MEMBERS OF GOI CURRENTLY KNOW OF US DECISION.
HELGASON SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER WANT
TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM IMPACT FROM EVENTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF
DECISION IN ORDER TO LAY TO REST DEMANDS FROM SOME ELEMENTS
IN ICELAND THAT US PAY RENT OR OTHER FORM OF COMPENSATION FOR
CONTINUED PRESENCE OF US-MANNED BASE. THEREFORE, HELGASON
HOPED THAT ANY PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON DECISION
COULD BE AVOIDED. CHARGE ASSURED HELGASON THAT INFORMATION
WAS CURRENTLY BEING CLOSELY HELD BY VERY SMALL NUMBER OF
PERSONNEL AT EMBASSY AND BASE. HELGASON SAID GOI
ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD STRESS FACT THAT USG HAS GONE WELL
BEYOND PROVISIONS OF 1974 MOU IN MAKING CURRENT OFFER
TO ASSIST ICELAND WITH TERMINAL CONSTRUCTION.

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HELGASON ALSO REPEATED ASSURANCES GIVEN AMBASSADOR
BLAKE BY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER (REF B)
THAT NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE FULLY COORDINATED WITH
EMBASSY BEFORE BEING RELEASED.
CHRISTENSEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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